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RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessionsin 1990, and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, namely during the period since the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1990/90 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/45/49).

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PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1990

1990/50 International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

3. For a description of action taken with respect to this resolution see paragraphs 18 to 25 below (Assembly resolution 45/190).

1990/68 Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991

4. By its decision 1990/205 the Council convened a special high-level meeting on 4 and 5 July 1991 to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation.

5. To ensure adequate preparations for this special high-level meeting, which is the first of its kind, the Council in paragraph 2 invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, to take all the necessary measures to ensure the adequate preparation of the meeting, and to prepare an analytical report which should, inter alia, include complete information on patterns of trade, financial flows and investments in the context of the recent evolution of East-West relations and its consequences for the developing countries. In paragraphs 5 and 6 the Council called upon all appropriate organs, organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to contribute to the success of the special high-level meeting and invited all Member States and observer States that were in a position to do so to be represented at the ministerial level.

1990/74 Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT), whenever appropriate

6. In operative paragraph 6 the Council "Further requests the Secretary General to include in his annual report on regional co-operation, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the further consideration of Council resolution 1989/118 by the regional commissions for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia".

7. In Chapter IV of O (45) the Commission "invites the Executive Secretary to undertake co-operation and co-ordination with the other regional commissions of the United Nations, and with other international organizations active in the field of trade facilitation, and requests him to submit proposals for any interregional project to the Working Party and to the Commission for discussion and decision".

8. The ECE secretariat submitted a "draft proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of EDIFACT wherever appropriate" (document TRADE/WP.4/R.734), which will be considered by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures at its session in March 1991.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

45/1 Admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to membership in the United Nations

9. Under the terms of this resolution the General Assembly decided to admit the Principality of Liechtenstein to membership in the United Nations. Liechtenstein has thereby become a member of the ECE, in accordance with article 7 of the Commission's terms of reference.

45/91 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

10. The Inland Transport Committee includes activities on Facilitation of Movement and Transport of Disabled Persons in its programme of work. This work concerns mainly international harmonization of measures taken by member States through the elaboration and adoption of provisions in international legal instruments, recommendations or regulations, e.g.

- in road transport - the elaboration of requirements for the construction and equipment of vehicles and road infrastructure and special traffic rules to facilitate movement of disabled persons;

- in rail transport - measures for the construction and equipment of rolling stock and rail transport infrastructure and operational arrangements to facilitate travel by rail of disabled persons;

- in inland water transport - elaboration of requirements concerning measures to facilitate the access of disabled persons to passenger vessels.

11. Under the auspices of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, the first workshop on rehabilitation engineering (REHAB-I) took place in Washington D.C. in June 1990. The second workshop will be held in Norway in May 1991, and the third in Prague in early 1992. The Commission in its decision N (45) recognized the three workshops as being a contribution to the activities of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

45/106 Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities

12. In this resolution the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging (A/45/420) and endorsed the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond as outlined in that report.

13. With the financial assistance of UNFPA the ECE is carrying out activities in the field of aging of population. In particular, a publication entitled

Advanced population aging: demographic and economic implications in the ECE region will be published in late 1991. It will include studies on demographic aspects of the aging of population and on economic and labour market implications of aging.

14. The ECE secretariat is actively considering new directions for research in the field of population aging with the assistance of UNFPA. Research areas under review include morbidity and mortality conditions among the elderly and changes in the size and composition of families associated with the aging of population. Selected activities relating to this research may be organized by the ECE in co-operation with the International Institute on Aging.

45/129 Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

15. In paragraph 8 of the resolution the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, in which the Council recommended that a world conference on women should be held in 1995, and requested that the Commission on the Status of Women act as the preparatory body for the world conference. It went on in paragraph 23 to request the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies. In this connection ECE may wish to consider as a follow-up to its meetings in 1979 and 1984 on the Economic Role of Women in the ECE Region a regional contribution to the World Conference convened for 1995.

45/177 Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields

16. In the preamble to this resolution the General Assembly recalled its resolutions and those of ECOSOC on the question of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. In operative paragraph 4 the Assembly decided to reconvene, in a resumed session for a duration of one week in the second half of April 1991, for an in-depth consideration and negotiations of proposals for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

17. In this connection the Commission will recall its Supplementary Report (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1), adopted at its Special Session in November 1987 and submitted to the Council in response to decision 1987/112. It will also wish to take into account in considering a possible contribution to the Assembly's discussion of this item the provisions of decisions O (45) and P (45) adopted at the resumed forty-fifth session in December 1990.

45/190 International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

18. By their letter of 26 April 1990 the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic requested the inclusion of an additional item, entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the

consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant", in the agenda of the first regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council. By its decision 1990/211 the Council deferred consideration of the item to its second regular session and requested the Secretary-General to provide all relevant information on the activities of the United Nations system in order to assist it in the consideration of the item.

19. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council (E/1990/97) which contained a brief description of current and planned activities of the United Nations system related to the Chernobyl accident, including their terms of reference and progress achieved, based upon contributions and replies received from the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

20. At its second regular session the Council adopted resolution 1990/50 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a comprehensive report (A/45/643) on the activities currently under way or planned within the United Nations system relating to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and its consequences. It is based upon contributions submitted by the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to supplement the information contained in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General to the Council on this subject. The report also contains recommendations for further action within the United Nations system.

21. In response to the appeals addressed to the United Nations by the Governments of the USSR, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR for assistance in addressing and mitigating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Secretary-General decided to dispatch a United Nations fact-finding mission to the affected areas, designed to assist interested programmes of the United Nations to determine through first-hand experience their contribution to the comprehensive report that the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The mission, which took place from 22 to 29 September 1990, was headed by the Executive Secretary of ECE, in his personal capacity, as designated by the Secretary-General, and was comprised of nine members representing the secretariats of the following programmes of the United Nations: United Nations Centre for human Settlements (Habitat), UNDRO, UNEP, UNICEF, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and ECE. Document A/45/643 also included the report of the mission.

22. Paragraph 114 of document A/45/643 contains the following report of related ECE activity:

> "In response to the request received by ECE from the Governments of the USSR, the Byelorussian and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics for assistance in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, a number of ECE subsidiary bodies have considered proposals for activities on this subject, as follows:

(a) The Committee on Housing Building and Planning received a proposal from the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR on behalf of itself, and the delegations of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR concerning work on the resettling of populations as a consequence of the Chernobyl accident. The proposal was suggested in principle and the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR was invited to submit a precise description of work to be done for consideration by the Committee's working parties;

(b) The Chemical Industry Committee received an appeal from the delegations of the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR to provide available technical information on the decontamination of radioactive wastes and soil, and on the treatment of radioactive waste-water, as well as information about research institutes active in this area;

(c) In response to an appeal by the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR on behalf of itself and the delegations of the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR, the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture was requested to look for possibilities of individual and joint efforts related to the practical solution of such problems as treatment of soil and radioactive wastes by means of deep ploughing, agrochemical operations and soil tillage; working out and practical use of proper agricultural technologies and techniques in contaminated areas; returning these areas back to the economic turnover, etc.;

(d) The Conference of European Statisticians agreed to include in the next Compendium of Environment Statistics a study on the health consequences in the USSR of the Chernobyl accident for publication in 1991;

(e) In response to a proposal by the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR on behalf of itself and the delegations of the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR, the Timber Committee agreed to include work designed to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident in the priorities of its programme of work;

(f) It is foreseen that the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, at its next session in February 1991, may wish to consider aspects of its work on food-processing machinery and rehabilitation engineering of relevance to the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. ECE participated in the United Nations mission to the areas of the USSR affected by the Chernobyl accident (22-29 September 1990)."

23. In accordance with decision 1990/5 of the Administrative Committee for Co-ordination, the Secretary-General requested the Executive Secretary of ECE to assist him in the preparation of his report to ECOSOC (E/1990/97) and to the General Assembly (A/45/643).

24. Having considered the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, the Assembly adopted resolution 45/190, operative paragraphs 2 and 5 of which read as follows:

" 2. Requests the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in considering possible technical and other special assistance for the areas most affected, particularly in the

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, to bear in mind the unprecedented nature of the radiological and environmental disaster and of the emergency situation in those areas resulting from the long-term effects of man-made radiation on present and future generations;

5. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members of the international community, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the business community, scientific bodies and individuals to continue to provide all appropriate support and assistance to the areas most affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, in full co-ordination with envisaged or planned efforts of the United Nations system."

25. The Commission may wish to consider appropriate follow-up action in its areas of activity related to this issue.

45/208 Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE)

26. The resolution in paragraph 8 calls for a strengthening of the activities of the United Nations in the field of development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

27. This subject-matter is dealt with in the programme of work of the former Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy (ECE/ENERGY/15, Annex) which contains the following programme elements:

3.2(i): The Future Role of NRSE. To be implemented by a survey of the institutional and incentive systems prevailing in ECE countries for the development and utilization of NRSE, and anticipated results. This will be followed by a meeting to consider the findings of the survey and possible follow-up action.

3.2(ii): Solar Power Systems. To be implemented by means of a Seminar to be held in Alushta (USSR) from 22 to 26 April 1991, which will deal with solar photovoltaic systems, solar thermal systems, solar hybrid systems and future applications and economic aspects of solar power systems. A round-table will address the development and utilization of solar power systems and their role for an environmentally sustainable energy supply in the future, and possibilities for international co-operation.

3.2(iii): Compendium of Efficient NRSE Technologies: To be implemented as a study, resources permitting.

3.2(iv): Dissemination of the Results of the Commission's Activities in the Field of NRSE. To be implemented by means of a report on NRSE activities in ECE and dissemination of the report to other entities of the United Nations system and Governments of developing countries.

45/211 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

28. In paragraph 9 of the resolution the Assembly "Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to give full support to the preparatory process for the Conference and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of the work programme, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 44/228". Document E/ECE/1236 contains an account of the Commission's activities as a follow-up to the Bergen Conference in the field of environment and development, which constitutes an ECE regional contribution to the 1992 Conference.

29. The Executive Secretary has held consultations with the Secretary-General of the Conference to ensure close co-operation between ECE and the Conference secretariat in the preparation of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including participation in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and its technical Working Groups.

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (REGULAR SESSIONS, 1990)

1990/3 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

1990/12 World conference on women in 1995

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FORTY-FIFTH SESSION)

45/133 International Year of the Family

45/199 International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

45/212 Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Mankind